

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A substrate covered at least partially with a layered coating, said layered coating comprising:
 - an intermediate coating and a hard carbon coating,
 - said intermediate coating comprising:
 - a first metal layer deposited on the substrate, said first metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a nitride layer deposited on said first metal layer, said nitride layer comprising at least one nitride of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a second metal layer deposited on said nitride layer, said second metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a transition layer deposited on said second metal layer, said transition layer consisting of ~~comprising~~ at least one carbide of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB,
 - wherein said hard carbon coating comprises a diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coating,
 - wherein said hard carbon coating is deposited directly onto the transition layer.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said hard carbon coating comprises a layered structure of diamond-like carbon (DLC) and diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coatings.
5. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said hard carbon coating is doped with a transition metal and/or with an inert gas.

6. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said first metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.
7. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said nitride layer comprises TiN or CrN.
8. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said second metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.
9. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said transition layer comprises Ti_xC_y or Cr_xC_y .
10. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said first metal layer and said second metal layer have a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
11. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said nitride layer has a thickness between 0 and 5 μm .
12. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said transition layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
13. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the Rockwell C test is better than HF2.
14. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the critical load to obtain delamination is higher than 35 N.
15. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein said layered coating has a hardness of at least 10 GPa.
16. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein the diamond-like nanocomposite coating comprises interpenetrating networks of a-C:H and a-Si:O.

17. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 16, wherein the diamond-like nanocomposite coating comprises 30-70 at% C, 20-40 at% H, 5-15 at% Si, and 5-15 at% O.
18. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein the DLN coating comprises an inert gas in an amount of 0.5 to 5 at%.
19. (Previously Presented) A substrate according to claim 18, wherein the inert gas is Ne, Ar, or Kr.